

continual denial of most claims by atomic veterans and their survivors.

Bronchiolo alveolar carcinoma is not considered a smoker's cancer. During a recent class action lawsuit in the state of Florida, the jury specifically excluded bronchiolo alveolar carcinoma from the list of lung cancers compensable due to smoking. Furthermore, the National Research Council cited Department of Energy studies in the BEIR V report stating that "bronchiolo alveolar carcinoma is the most common cause of delayed death from inhaled plutonium 239."

I know of this firsthand because I have been working with Joan McCarthy, a New Jersey resident, who lost her husband, Tom, to bronchiolo alveolar carcinoma in 1981. Tom had served as the navigator on the U.S.S. *McKinley* which participated in Operation Wigwam, an underwater atomic test in the Pacific that produced a surge of mist which Tom inhaled. Twenty-five years later, Tom died of lung cancer, a father and husband who was only in his early forties. Passage of the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act today will add this cancer to the VA's presumption list and thus ensure that Joan McCarthy and other veterans and their widows receive the compensation which they need and deserve.

I am also proud of this bill's long-term care provisions for our nation's veterans. It reflects the months of heavy lifting that the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has done on this issue as America's veterans community gets older and consequently needs quality health care.

Another provision which I authored as free standing legislation and is now in the conference report is a respite care provision. For the first time, we are giving the VA the ability to contract out for respite care services. Until now, if a veteran's care giver, be it his spouse or adult child, needed a short break, their only recourse was to wait for a bed to be made available at either a VA or state nursing home. The extra burden of transporting the veterans almost makes this self-defeating and it is witnessed by the fact that only 232 cases of respite care were provided by the VA during the 1998 fiscal year.

The need for respite care cannot be underestimated. A few years ago, my wife, Marie, was the primary care giver for my mother who was dying of brain cancer. We chose to take care of her in our home and my wife was the one who saw to her needs. Consequently, I know how important it is for the care giver, as well as the veteran, to be provided with the occasional day off so that they might attend to their own lives for a few hours or a few days. In the long run, this will significantly improve the quality of life and care of our veterans and unquestionably save the VA money in the long run. Most Americans want to remain in their own homes or with their families for as long as possible.

The benefits of respite care cannot be understated. According to the Caregiver Assistance Network, family and volunteer caregivers provide 85% of all home care given in the United States. However, our veterans' caregivers need our help. In a California statewide survey taken by the Family Caregiver Alliance, 58% of the caregivers showed signs of clinical depression. When asked, they responded that

their two greatest needs were emotional support and respite care. On average, they are providing 10.5 hours of care per day. Providing the VA with the ability to contract with the nearest nursing home, adult day care center or sending someone to the veterans' home will make a real difference in the day to day quality of life for a veteran and his or her family.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act also requires the VA to provide needed nursing home care for veterans who are 70% service-connected or in need of such care for a service-connected condition. It also lifts the VA's six month limit on adult day health care and it allows the VA to expand the scope of the state home program to encompass all extended care services such as respite care, adult day health care, domiciliary care, and other alternatives to institutional care. It also guarantees emergency care for uninsured veterans and reinstates preferential eligibility for recipients of the Purple Heart. It also requires the VA to establish a policy regarding chiropractic treatment, a provision which I first introduced as legislation during my first term in Congress. And finally, it authorizes payments to the surviving spouses of former POWs who were rated totally disabled due to any service-connected cause for a period of one or more years immediately prior to death.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act.

LIST OF COSPONSORS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 22, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of my colleagues who requested to be cosponsors of H.R. 3189: Representative JOHN DOOLITTLE, Representative ROBERT MATSUI, Representative TOM LANTOS, Representative ANNA ESHOO, Representative SAM FARR, Representative LOIS CAPPS, Representative ELTON GALLEGLY, Representative BRAD SHERMAN, Representative BUCK McKEON, Representative HOWARD BERMAN, Representative DAVID DREIER, Representative HENRY WAXMAN, Representative MATTHEW MARTINEZ, Representative JULIAN DIXON, Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Representative STEVE HORN, Representative JERRY LEWIS, Representative KEN CALVERT, Representative MARY BONO, Representative DANA ROHRBACHER, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ, Representative CHRIS COX, Representative RON PACKARD, Representative BRIAN BILBRAY, Representative BOB FILNER, Representative DUKE CUNNINGHAM, and Representative DUNCAN HUNTER.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3194,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary portion of H.R. 3194, making consolidated appropriations for fiscal year 2000. The revised conference report for the fiscal year 2000 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriation was introduced as a separate bill, H.R. 3421, and is referenced in the final consolidated appropriations measure, H.R. 3194, adopted in the House last Wednesday.

H.R. 3421 incorporates the conference report for the original bill, H.R. 2670, plus additional items negotiated since the veto of the first conference report. This is to highlight the changes from House Report 106-398, the conference report on H.R. 2670.

Let me first highlight the funding changes.

H.R. 3421 provides an additional \$616,282,000 in funding, after scorekeeping adjustments.

Under the Department of Justice, it provides an additional \$151,782,000, including the following: (1) \$140,000,000 for the COPS program—\$117,500,000 for hiring, \$10,000,000 for community prosecutors; and \$12,500,000 for management and administration; and it moves \$130,000,000 for crime identification technology from State and Local Law Enforcement to COPS; (2) \$10,635,000 for General Legal Activities—\$10,053,000 for Civil Rights Division; and \$582,000 for Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States; and (3) \$1,147,000 for the U.S. Parole Commission.

Under the Department of Commerce, it provides an additional \$45,000,000, including: (1) \$30,000,000 for NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities—\$5,000,000 for the Pacific Salmon Treaty, \$6,000,000 for coral reefs, \$5,500,000 for Marine Sanctuaries, \$2,000,000 for fisheries habitat restoration, \$11,000,000 for Endangered Species Act activities, and \$500,000 for GLOBE; (2) \$7,000,000 for NOAA Procurement, Acquisition and Construction—\$3,000,000 for Marine Sanctuaries, and \$4,000,000 for National Estuarine Research Reserves; and (3) \$8,000,000 for the Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund—\$4,000,000 for Tribes and \$2,000,000 each for California and Oregon.

Under the Department of State, it provides an additional \$347,000,000, including: (1) \$47,000,000 for Diplomatic and Consular Programs—\$5,000,000 for the Pacific Salmon Treaty; and \$42,000,000 for activities in the Kosovo region and the WTO ministerial, with up to \$5,000,000 for the latter; and (2) \$300,000,000 for Contributions for International Peacekeeping.

For Related Agencies, it provides an additional \$81,500,000, including: (1) \$3,000,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; (2) \$5,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation; (3) \$36,000,000 for SBA Salaries

and Expenses, and an additional \$10,500,000 for the New Markets initiative, subject to authorization; (4) \$6,000,000 for SBA Business Loans for the New Markets initiative, subject to authorization; and (5) \$21,000,000 for SBA Disaster Loans, in response to the demand on the program in large part due to Hurricane Floyd.

There were also a number of language provisions that changed:

Two Department of State General Provisions relating to Jerusalem were dropped; and Several provisions were revised, including:

Section 108, dealing with the reorganization of Office of Justice programs;

Census framework language;

Under State Department Diplomatic and Consular programs, a new provision allowing transfer of not to exceed \$4,500,000 to International Broadcasting Operations to avoid Voice of America personnel reductions;

State Contributions to International Organizations and Arrearages provisions;

Section 623, dealing with Pacific Salmon authorizations;

Section 626, dealing with discrimination or denigration of religious beliefs; and

Section 627, dealing with visa prohibitions related to countries refusing to take returnees.

The listing of these changes is intended to highlight the differences between the vetoed conference report and the final conference report, and a description of these changes is included in the Statement of Managers accompanying the conference report for H.R. 3194, which describes the final agreement for the entire Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations measures.